

# THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

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## The Young Men's Christian Association.

IT IS ESSENTIAL IN OUR TIME.

The object of this Association is the welfare of the young men, about whose welfare in every community thoughtful Christians should be most anxious, and for whose misleading the emissaries of evil spare neither money nor effort. It found its origin in the efforts of a few Christian young men, who, feeling the necessity of checking the enormous destruction of young men, sought to unite those young men, who, regarding Jesus Christ as their God and Savior, according to the Holy Scriptures, desire to be his disciples, in their doctrine and in their life, and to associate their efforts for the extension of His Kingdom among young men. Heaven's blessing rested upon the efforts of these consecrated disciples, and as a result thousands of young men are being brought into the fold of God through the operations of this noble institution which is being spread over the whole world.

The representative membership of this organization consists of members from all Christian denominations, whose united efforts are exerted for the education of the young man, to train him in their work, though perfectly loyal to the churches which they represent, they seek by all available means to lead this class of tempted humanity into the church of God, through the open doors of the Young Men's Christian Association. This, then, is not a separate organization designed to supplant the Church, but it may justly be called her garden where the Christian young man sows the seed and afterwards reaps the harvest for his own "Christian home," the Church.

To this end every reasonable amusement that young men may desire is provided. The bowling alley and gymnasium are open to those who desire gymnastics, the reading room to those who desire literature, the educational classes to those who desire study, the baseball, foot ball, and basketball grounds to those who desire such sports; the rambling club to those who desire "roving"; the gymnasium are open to those who desire chess, checkers, etc.; and the pool table to those who desire music. Spiritual benefits are offered to all in the way of Bible classes, young men's societies, evening worship and by association with Christian young men. It is principally through these secular services that the unconverted young men are brought under the influence of the Christian young man, invited to the meetings and afterwards directed to the pastors of our churches, where further efforts invariably insure the sinner's safe anchoring in the harbor of peace and happiness. These are some of the agencies employed by the Christian young men of the land to draw their fellows away from the social pleasures of the world, and establish them in the principles of purity and true manhood. They offer a rest from the deteriorating influence of the saloon, strictly moral surroundings, where friends can meet without the fear of being introduced into any form of sin and dissipation, where pleasure is healthful and recreation profitable.

Is an institution of this description needed in Bloomfield? We know that it is. In a town the size of our town where forty saloons are not only tolerated but supported, whose daily output is destruction of souls, the Christian churches ought at least to support one institution whose aim and object is the good of her young men, and where they will always receive a hearty greeting to unconverted sinners. At least Christian churches should strive not to permit the secular to gain the ascendancy on the spiritual atmosphere of the community. In a sister State, a town of 25,000 inhabitants supports a Young Men's Christian Association having a general secretary and a business instructor, and erected a \$25,000 building, all of which is paid for by the Association. Cannot Bloomfield do likewise? How can Christian churches make their influence bear down upon the unconverted young men who are associating with them? What place more appropriate to occupy than the Young Men's

Christian Association, whose active and associate members engage in the same exercises, enjoy the same games, and unite in fellowship one with another? In a brief conversation with a fellow citizen of Bloomfield concerning the Association he spoke as follows: "If your Association would offer the advantages that other associations offer its membership would be three times as great as it is at present. A great many young men with whom I spoke at different times signified their willingness to become members of the Y. M. C. A. if they could insure better accommodations. The young men in general seem to be in sympathy with the cause, but having waited for two years and been disappointed in their expectations, a great many are now manifesting some interest in the Athletic Association that is being formed. I am not a member of the church, neither am I a member of the Y. M. C. A., but I have been a member of different clubs and feel rather surprised that the interest that the different church members show in the Athletic Club is not given to the Y. M. C. A."

This conversation from one uninterested in the work, evinces the fact that those who are familiar with the operations of the Young Men's Christian Association expect the well to do Christian element to support it, and feel disappointed in not having realized their expectations before.

We know that our quarters are not favorable for the prosecution of our work, also that the citizens of Bloomfield, if thoroughly interested in the work could with little trouble provide a suitable building for us; we are only awaiting the time when they will learn to appreciate our efforts.

There is room for the institution in Bloomfield. Of late a number of young men have been interested in the gymnasium who were heretofore uninterested in the association and are now beginning to attend our meetings. Many more, had we the proper facilities to entertain them, would follow in the same footsteps. We have in our community from 250 to 300 young men who seldom if ever attend any religious services and the greater portion of whose time is spent in saloons, on corners and around tobacco shops. Would it not be well to offer these young fellows an attractive resort where they might spend their time to advantage, in the purer society of Christian workers. Shall we hold our wealth to the destruction of human souls? Shall we be responsible for opportunities neglected that might have won many souls for Christ if improved?

Shall we neglect our Christian duties concerning our boys and set traps for them into which they will eventually be enticed and held to the blasting of their hopes and the destruction of their lives? As a fellow citizen interested in the welfare of young men I entreat all to carefully consider this matter and act wisely concerning it.

OMRON.

**Y. M. C. A.**  
—The Library is on the increase.  
—Scrivener's Monthly may hereafter be found in the Reading Room.  
New appliances have recently been secured by the Association for the gymnasium in the way of Indian clubs and dumb bells.  
Rev. Elbert Clement, of Watessing, conducted a very interesting meeting in the rooms of the Y. M. C. A. on Saturday evening the 20th. The meeting on the 27th will be conducted by Mr. C. D. Bartlett, of the First Baptist Church.

—The Parlor Conference of the active members of the Y. M. C. A. held at the residence of Mr. Sheldon on Wednesday evening, the 24th, was an occasion of great interest. Different phases of the work were presented by Mr. W. R. Eadie, of Morristown, and Messrs. Hoagland and Hampton, of Newark. Everyone present felt a new interest for the work after listening to the addresses of these gentlemen. Previous to adjournment refreshments and a social "chat" enlivened the meeting. The motion picture press their appreciation for the services of the gentlemen who so kindly condescended to be with us on this occasion by a unanimous vote of thanks.

—The game of ball between the Y. M. C. A. and the McVicar School of Mountclair, on Saturday the 20th was a spectacle of great interest. B. H. teams did their best but the Y. M. C. A. boys, though greatly inferior in size were yet vastly superior in skill and defeated their opponents by a score of 15 to 3. Following are the players in their regular order, viz: Sidney P. Lewis, pitcher; Harry Decker, catcher; Noh Perry, 1st base; Arthur Russell, 2nd base; Edward Robotham, 3d base; Edgar Moss, S. S.; Clifford Riker, C. F.; Frank Stone, R. F.; and Louis Gathlin, L. F. Another game will be played by the same teams on the Y. M. C. A. Grounds at Watessing to-day at 9:30 A. M.

**Sunday Observance.**  
At the Gospel Temperance meeting held in the Y. M. C. A. Gymnasium last Sunday, the running of horse-races in Bloomfield on Sunday was mentioned and the prospective opening of Glenwood Park spoken of as being likely to add another resort to those already existing for Sunday dissipation and intemperance.

Mr. F. M. Eppler, President of the Glenwood Park Association, having heard of the Y. M. C. A. boys, though greatly inferior in size were yet vastly superior in skill and defeated their opponents by a score of 15 to 3. Following are the players in their regular order, viz: Sidney P. Lewis, pitcher; Harry Decker, catcher; Noh Perry, 1st base; Arthur Russell, 2nd base; Edward Robotham, 3d base; Edgar Moss, S. S.; Clifford Riker, C. F.; Frank Stone, R. F.; and Louis Gathlin, L. F. Another game will be played by the same teams on the Y. M. C. A. Grounds at Watessing to-day at 9:30 A. M.

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Gov. Green's Proclamation.  
In accordance with a recent act of the Legislature and a proclamation by Gov. Green in pursuance of said act, Tuesday next will be quite generally observed as a holiday throughout the State. In the proclamation the Governor says:  
Whereas, The 30th day of April is the anniversary of the inauguration of General Washington as the first President of the United States; and whereas, the people of New Jersey very generally propose to commemorate the active participation of the State and its citizens in the event thus to be celebrated, by joining in the ceremonies in the city of New York; and whereas, the Legislature of this State, recognizing the inauguration of Washington as the completion of the work of our forefathers in forming a Constitutional government and its anniversary one to be observed, has declared the day to be a public holiday; now, therefore,  
I, Robert S. Green, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do, in pursuance of law and the authority thereby conferred on me, hereby set apart Tuesday, the thirtieth day of April instant, as a day for the public observance of the celebration of the inauguration of President Washington, and declare the said day to be a legal holiday.

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